Conference Announcements

Integrated Waste Management & Life Cycle Assessment Workshop and Conference

13–16th April 2004, Prague, Czech Republic
Conference site: http://viso.ei.jrc.it/iwmlca/index.html

European Commission, Directorate General Joint Research Centre Enlargement Action Program in collaboration with: DG-Environment, OECD, UNEP, IEG, SNASA, SETAC, WAR, and ASSURRE

Announcement and Call for Papers. The EU Commission is organising a major international workshop and conference related to integrated waste management and LCA in April in Prague (just before the SETAC meeting). This is part of the JRC's Enlargement Action Program and 26 EU enlargement country political/technical representatives will also be invited to attend. We are expecting attendants to perhaps even include one or two Secretary of State-level representatives, who are responsible for the political decisions related to waste management in their countries. A press presence may also be there, with a possible press release.

Call for papers open for moderated poster/platform sessions:

15th A.M.: Integrated waste prevention and management: Lessons learned from life cycle thinking
15th P.M.: Integrated Waste Management & Life Cycle Assessment: Applications and implications for waste managers
16th A.M.: Methodological issues and implications

Abstract deadline: 15th February 2004 • **Registration deadline:** 15th March 2004. Send 500 word abstracts and registration requests to: LCA-waste@jrc.it. Further details available at: http://viso.ei.jrc.it/iwmlca/index.html

Conference on Eco-efficiency

1–3 April 2004, Leiden, Netherlands
Conference site: http://www.eco-efficiency-conf.org

Eco-efficiency is a subject surpassing disciplinary boundaries, combining environmental sciences, economics, administrative & policy sciences, decision theory, and other disciplines. Approaches in the field of eco-efficiency diverge and thus jeopardising the central efficiency aim and the dissemination and use of this basically integrative approach.

A group of scientists, supported by industry, has taken the initiative to cross the boundaries of the different disciplines and scientific societies dealing with eco-efficiency, by organising a scientific conference on this subject. The aim of the conference is to better understand and align different scientific approaches and to promote the broader application of eco-efficiency analysis in decision making, with a focus on quantified methods.

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The International Environmental Modelling and Software Society Conference

Complexity and Integrated Resources Management

14–17 June 2004, University of Osnabrück, Germany
Conference site: http://www.iemss.org/iemss2004/

We would like to inform you about a potentially interesting conference, which includes two sessions about uncertainties and LCA (one more method-orientated session, the other about the implications of uncertainties on decision-making).

Session description

1. Methods and tools to treat uncertainty in LCA. It is important to know to what extent the outcome of an LCA is affected by various types of uncertainty, such as parameter, scenario and model uncertainty. These types may occur in the goal and scope definition, the inventory analysis and the impact assessment of an LCA. Information on the uncertainty of the model outcomes provides useful information to assess the reliability of LCA-based decisions and to guide future research towards reducing uncertainty. Much of the discussion has been directed to data quality indicators and related qualitative uncertainty information at the level of the individual input data items, while modeling uncertainty in quantitative terms at the level of the results is not common practice in LCA. To clarify and stimulate the use of uncertainty analysis in LCA, this session focuses on tools to treat different types of uncertainty in LCA. It will discuss the typology of uncertainties that may be encountered in LCA, the techniques that are available to address these uncertainties, the inclusion of these techniques in LCA software tools, the (graphical) possibilities to show uncertainty in LCA outcomes, ways to simplify the uncertainty analysis and the inclusion of uncertainty analyses in case studies.

2. Implication of uncertainty in LCA on the decision making process. LCA provides valuable environmental decision support by providing information on the relative performance of product or service systems. However, it is important for decision makers to be able to judge the significance of the information LCA provides. Therefore, tools to manage uncertainty during the LCA process are becoming increasingly important. While uncertainty in LCA is an increasingly well recognised problem, research has generally focussed on LCA data quality issues so far, with less of an emphasis on the consequences the uncertainty has on the relevance of the LCA results and thus the ability to provide meaningful decision support. This session stresses the implications of uncertainty in LCA on the decision making process. It will discuss the reliability of results after conducting uncertainty assessments with different tools, the extent to which the problem of uncertainty should be addressed in the decision-making process, the consequences for the LCA method, and how uncertainties should be managed, documented and discussed during the decision-making process.

Deadlines: Abstracts (300 words): 31st October 2003 (abstracts may be submitted electronically). **Full papers** (maximum 6 A4 pages) and registration: 29th of February 2004

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